

Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawing, which includes FIG. 1, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-40 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 17, 20 and 30 have been currently amended. Claims 1, 4, 14, 17, 27, 30 and 40 are independent claims. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the specification and drawings.

Drawings

The drawings filed on 01/29/2004 include a typographical error "FGPA" in FIG. 1. The Replacement drawing has been attached to this Response to replace the original FIG. 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-3, 11-16, 24-29 and 37-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gamal et al. ("Gamal", U.S. Patent Number 5,754,826). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration. *W.L. Gore & Assocs. v. Garlock*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). Further, "anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim." *Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co.*, 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1984) (citing *Connell v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 722 F.2d 1542, 220 USPQ 193 (Fed. Cir. 1983)) (emphasis added).

Independent Claims 1, 14 and 27 each recite an element of "a database." The description of the element of "a database" may be found in the Specification and Drawings, e.g., paragraph [0023] at page 9, paragraph [0027] at page 10, paragraph [0029] at page 11, paragraphs [0030] and [0032] beginning at page 12, paragraph [0034] at page 13, paragraphs [0043] and [0044] at page 17, paragraph [0046] at page 18, and paragraph [0050] at page 20.

In rejecting Claims 1, 14 and 27, the Patent Office alleged that col. 4, lines 37-41 of Gamal teach such element (Office Action, page 2). Col. 4, lines 37-43 of Gamal recite:

The generic layout of the design is then converted (or ported) to each member in the club to arrive at a process specific layout using a software program that hierarchically

transforms the generic layout to the process specific layout, substituting process specific versions of each macrocell and each interconnection while maintaining the same relative positions of the macrocells and the interconnections.

Nowhere is the element of “a database” disclosed, taught, or suggested in col. 4, lines 37-41 of Gamal. Since Gamal fails to teach, disclose or suggest the element of “a database,” as recited in Claims 1, 14 and 27, the rejection should be withdrawn, and Claims 1, 14 and 27 should be allowed.

Claims 2-3 and 11-13 depend from Claim 1 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence upon Claim 1. Claims 15-16 and 24-26 depend from Claim 14 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence upon Claim 14. Claims 28-29 and 37-39 depend from Claim 27 and are therefore allowable due to their dependence upon Claim 27.

Independent Claim 1 recites an element of “slice.” As indicated in Specification,

A slice is a pre-manufactured chip in which all silicon layers have been built, leaving the metal layers or top metal layers to be completed with the customer's unique IP. For example, RapidSlice™ developed by LSI Logic Corp. is an instance of a slice. One or more slices may be built on a single wafer. It is understood that a slice may include one or more bottom metal layers or may include no metal layers at all. In a preferred embodiment of the prefabrication step, portions of the metal layers are pre-specified to implement the pre-defined blocks of the platform and the diffusion processes are carried out in a wafer fab. That is, the base characteristics, in terms of the IP, the processors, the memory, the interconnect, the programmable logic and the customizable transistor array, are all pre-placed in the design and pre-diffused in the slice. However, a slice is still fully decoupled because the customer has not yet introduced the function into the slice. (page 7, paragraph [0018])

Applicants respectfully submit that the element of “slice,” as recited in Claim 40, is not disclosed, taught, or suggested by Gamal. Thus, Claim 40 should be allowed.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office has indicated that original Claims 4-10, 17-23 and 30-36 “would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims” (Office Action, Page 3). Applicants have rewritten these claims in accordance with the Patent Office’s instruction, and have also corrected formal matters. Thus, Claims 4-10, 17-23 and 30-36 should be allowed.

Applicants understood that the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter given by the Patent Office at Page 3 of Office Action were made in accordance with the following instruction per MPEP § 1302.14:

“The statement is not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why claims are allowed and should not be written to specifically or impliedly state that all the reasons for allowance are set forth.”

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in the case.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
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Dated: September 27, 2005

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